



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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April 9, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Symington Subcommittee: Interests of Lowenstein, Particularly as to the GRC

At his request, Jim Lowenstein on 9 April had an informal chat with Tom Shoesmith, Country Director for the ROC, at which I was present.

It became very clear that Lowenstein's personal interest is mainly on the political side of things. Most of an hour's talk was devoted to the Two Chinas problem and its impact on all other questions. Lowenstein was interested in whether we would have to pay a price in MAP or further commitments for Chiang's behavior on the Chirep question. (Answer: the price would not buy it, even if we wanted to pay it) Alluding to views in various quarters that our military presence on Taiwan was a bar to the two parts of China getting together, he asked whether we could not reduce it, particularly in light of the unlikelihood of a PRC invasion. He seemed to recognize that a number of the missions performed from Taiwan were theater-oriented; and that it was not yet possible to foretell the circumstances that would govern theater requirements once Vietnam was over.

He asked only the following military-oriented questions: Is Cicollella's successor an improvement? (Answer: A better country team member.) Is there inter-service rivalry in the U.S. family and in the MND elements? (Answer: To some extent, sure.) Do the [REDACTED] activities create any problems? (Answer: no.)

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He then said bluntly that unless Symington made him go after specific military matters, he would want to focus on the political side.

He expected to speak with GRC Foreign Office officials, with whom he had talked at length on his last trip. He was told we would be interested in what he might learn from them.


He and Moose had applied to the PRC for visas, although they were not too optimistic on that score.


They also expected to go to Hong Kong to talk with the Consulate-General. Other details of the trip will await decision of Symington's return next week.

  
Joseph J. Wolf

cc: DOD - Mr. French  
CIA - Mr. Maury

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W.H. - Mr. Lehman  
PM - Mr. Spiers  
Mr. Pickering  
Mr. Chapman  
Mr. Lewis  
EA - Mr. Green  
EA - Mr. Shoesmith

  
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